

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023**

**FIFTH ORGANIZATIONAL DAY**

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by Mr. Speaker Sexton.

The proceedings were opened with prayer by Rep. White.

Representative White led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken with the following results:

Present..... 92

Representatives present were Alexander, Baum, Beck, Boyd, Bricken, Bulso, Burkhart, Butler, Campbell S, Camper, Capley, Carr, Carringer, Cepicky, Chism, Clemmons, Cochran, Crawford, Darby, Davis, Dixie, Doggett, Eldridge, Faison, Farmer, Freeman, Fritts, Gant, Garrett, Gillespie, Glynn, Grills, Hakeem, Hale, Hardaway, Harris, Haston, Hawk, Hazlewood, Helton-Haynes, Hemmer, Hicks G, Hicks T, Holsclaw, Howell, Hulse, Hurt, Jernigan, Johnson C, Johnson G, Jones, Keisling, Lafferty, Lamberth, Littleton, Love, Lynn, Marsh, Martin B, Martin G, McCalmon, McKenzie, Miller, Mitchell, Moon, Parkinson, Powell, Powers, Raper, Reedy, Richey, Rudd, Rudder, Russell, Shaw, Sherrell, Slater, Sparks, Stevens, Terry, Thompson, Todd, Towns, Vaughan, Vital, Warner, White, Whitson, Williams, Wright, Zachary, Mr. Speaker Sexton -- 92

**EXCUSED**

The Speaker announced that the following members have been excused, pursuant to requests under **Rule No. 20**:

Representative Moody

Representative Travis

Representative Ragan; personal

Representative Barrett; personal

Representative Leatherwood

Representative Kumar; illness

**SPONSORS ADDED**

Under **Rule No. 43**, the following members were permitted to add their names as sponsors as indicated below, the prime sponsor of each having agreed to such addition:

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**House Resolution No. 2** Rep. Carr as prime sponsor.

**House Joint Resolution No. 40** Reps. Reedy, Clemmons, Jones, Love, Whitson, Beck, Mitchell, Hemmer, Powell, Dixie and Jernigan as prime sponsors.

**House Joint Resolution No. 44** Rep. Reedy as prime sponsor.

**House Joint Resolution No. 57** Reps. Terry, Rudd, Warner, Baum, Sparks and Reedy as prime sponsors.

**House Joint Resolution No. 60** Rep. Love as Second prime sponsor.

**House Joint Resolution No. 60** Reps. Reedy, Clemmons, Towns, G. Johnson, Powell, Chism, Harris, Thompson, Parkinson and Shaw as prime sponsors.

**House Joint Resolution No. 61** Reps. Lamberth and Slater as prime sponsors.

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

On motion, pursuant to **Rule No. 17**, the following resolutions listed were introduced and referred to the appropriate Committee:

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 55** -- Parks, Natural Areas Preservation - Recommends the designation of the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail as a state scenic and recreational trail. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 58** -- General Assembly, Statement of Intent or Position - Encourages the federal government to provide free health care for all honorably discharged veterans. by \*Raper.

House State Government Committee

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 59** -- General Assembly, Statement of Intent or Position - Supports restoration of the name "Kuwohi" to the mountain presently known as Clingmans Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. by \*Jones, \*Johnson G, \*Hardaway, \*Harris.

House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

**RESOLUTIONS**

Pursuant to **Rule No. 17**, the following resolution was introduced and placed on the Consent Calendar for January 30, 2023:

**House Resolution No. 4** -- Memorials, Recognition - Anna Kate Jolly. by \*Vital.

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS  
(Congratulatory and Memorializing)**

Pursuant to **Rule No. 17**, the resolution listed was noted as being placed on the Consent Calendar for January 30, 2023:

**\*Senate Joint Resolution No. 2** -- Memorials, Death - Detective Matthew Walker Blansett. by \*Gardenhire, \*Bowling, \*Akbari, \*Bailey, \*Briggs, \*Campbell, \*Crowe, \*Haile, \*Hensley, \*Jackson, \*Johnson, \*Kyle, \*Lamar, \*Lowe, \*Lundberg, \*Massey, \*Niceley, \*Oliver, \*Pody, \*Powers, \*Reeves, \*Roberts, \*Rose, \*Southerland, \*Stevens, \*Swann, \*Taylor, \*Walley, \*Watson, \*White, \*Yager, \*Yarbro, \*McNally.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

On motion, the following bills were introduced and passed first consideration:

**\*House Bill No. 311** -- Public Contracts - As introduced, requires the state procurement commission to strive to ensure that at least 5 percent of procurement contracts are awarded to veteran-owned businesses. - Amends TCA Title 12. by \*Butler.

**House Bill No. 312** -- Adoption - As introduced, makes various changes in regard to maintaining and securing documents in certain parental rights proceedings and the grounds for termination of parental rights. - Amends TCA Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 1. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 313** -- Law Enforcement - As introduced, prohibits the POST commission from certifying a person decertified in another state because of criminal or other misconduct; requires the commission to evaluate the qualifications of a person certified as a law enforcement officer in another state by reviewing the person's training, practical experience, and education. - Amends TCA Title 38, Chapter 8, Part 1. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 314** -- Insurance Companies, Agents, Brokers, Policies - As introduced, makes changes to the law regarding assignment of benefits to a healthcare provider. - Amends TCA Section 56-7-120 and Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran, \*Vital.

**House Bill No. 315** -- Hospitals and Health Care Facilities - As introduced, increases the allowable number of beds in private for-profit and private not-for-profit intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities from 668 to 804 upon the voluntary surrender of the certificate of need for such additional beds by the transferring owner. - Amends TCA Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 1. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 316** -- Financial Institutions, Dept. of - As introduced, enacts the "Money Transmission Modernization Act". - Amends TCA Title 45. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

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**House Bill No. 317** -- Holidays and Days of Special Observance - As introduced, changes the designation of June 19, known as "Juneteenth," from a day of special observance to a legal holiday. - Amends TCA Title 15. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 318** -- Children - As introduced, requires that a list of services available from other state programs and agencies be included in all plans established by agencies for a child in foster care. - Amends TCA Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 1 and Title 37, Chapter 2, Part 4. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 319** -- Environment and Conservation, Department of - As introduced, establishes a "brownfield redevelopment area fund" to be used by the department to administer a brownfield redevelopment area grant program; creates a franchise and excise tax credit equal to the remediation costs for a brownfield property for a qualified development project in a tier 3 or tier 4 enhancement county; makes other related revisions. - Amends TCA Title 7, Chapter 53, Part 3; Title 9, Chapter 23; Title 67, Chapter 4, Part 20 and Title 68, Chapter 212, Part 2. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 320** -- Taxes, Sales - As introduced, clarifies that machinery, equipment, and associated parts used by the department of general services or a contracted entity for the Megasite Authority of West Tennessee is included in the definition of "industrial machinery" for purposes of sales and use taxes. - Amends TCA Section 67-6-102. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 321** -- Transportation, Dept. of - As introduced, reduces, from eight to five, the number of members appointed by the commissioner to the selection committee that evaluates and scores requests for proposal when selecting and awarding a construction manager/general contractor services contract. - Amends TCA Title 4, Chapter 29, Part 2; Section 12-2-112; Title 54 and Title 55. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 322** -- Education - As introduced, requires the threat assessment team of each LEA to coordinate with state agencies providing services and technical assistance to local teams. - Amends TCA Section 10-7-504; Title 49, Chapter 6 and Title 62, Chapter 35. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 323** -- Taxes - As introduced, authorizes the commissioner of economic and community development to submit electronically the report concerning the review of credits allowed for certain taxes that is conducted every four years to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the speaker of the senate, the finance, ways and means committees of both chambers, and the office of legislative budget analysis. - Amends TCA Title 67. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 324** -- Public Employees - As introduced, authorizes the local government insurance committee to establish voluntary benefits, in addition to health plan benefits, for retired local government employees; requires retired local government employees to be drawing retirement benefits through TCRS in order to participate in the health benefits. - Amends TCA Title 8, Chapter 27 and Title 8, Chapter 50, Part 8. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 325** -- Opioids - As introduced, permanently extends the present law, which is set to terminate on July 1, 2023, that establishes limitations on the prescription of

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opioids and authorizes the promulgation of rules related to the calculation of those limitations. - Amends TCA Section 53-10-303; Section 63-1-164 and Chapter 1039 of the Public Acts of 2018. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 326** -- Education - As introduced, extends the repeal date for the Virtual Public Schools Act from June 30, 2023, to June 30, 2027. - Amends TCA Section 49-16-216. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 327** -- Governor - As introduced, removes the requirement that the nonprofit partner of the governor's office of faith-based and community initiatives use its own revenues to cover the cost of the nonprofit partner's activities; removes the prohibition on a state employee benefitting from the nonprofit partner's activities; removes the statement of the general assembly's intent that the state not realize any increased cost as a result of the governor's office of faith-based and community initiatives. - Amends TCA Title 4, Chapter 32. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 328** -- Public Funds and Financing - As introduced, authorizes biennial reports from designated state agencies regarding federal financial assistance to be filed electronically with the general assembly, - Amends TCA Title 4 and Title 9. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 329** -- Salaries and Benefits - As introduced, requires the commissioner of education to publish the annual state salary schedule on the department's website. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 1 and Title 49, Chapter 3, Part 3. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**House Bill No. 330** -- Children - As introduced, deletes provisions related to a report regarding the status of the development of a plan for a statewide system of care for children's mental health due by February 1, 2009, and plans regarding implementation of the system of children's mental health care statewide due by July 1, 2010, and July 1, 2012, all of which were submitted by the council on children's mental health care to the governor, the judiciary, education, and health and welfare committees of the senate and the civil justice, education, and health committees of the house of representatives. - Amends TCA Title 4 and Title 37. by \*Lamberth, \*Cochran.

**\*House Bill No. 331** -- Teachers, Principals and School Personnel - As introduced, requires the salaries paid to teachers and other professional personnel in a state special school on or after July 1, 2023, to equal or exceed the salaries paid to teachers and other professional personnel with comparable training and experience at the state special school with the highest paying salary schedule on July 1, 2023; prohibits reduction of the salaries paid to teachers and other professional personnel in the state special schools from the salaries paid in the immediately preceding school year. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 50, Part 10. by \*Davis.

**\*House Bill No. 332** -- TennCare - As introduced, requires the bureau to contract with at least one managed care organization that is partnered with a provider participation entity; establishes eligibility requirements for such entities to contract with TennCare; prohibits TennCare from choosing managed care organizations through a request for proposal or competitive bidding process beginning January 1, 2024; and makes other various changes. - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 56; Title 68 and Title 71. by \*Cepicky.

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**\*House Bill No. 333** -- Motor Vehicles - As introduced, requires the Tennessee bureau of investigation, by January 1, 2024, to submit a report to the general assembly that, at a minimum, provides the total number of convictions, since January 1, 2021, of persons who possessed a used, detached catalytic converter that the persons did not have authorization to possess; provides recommendations for legislation to improve upon enforcement. by \*Vital.

**\*House Bill No. 334** -- Medical Occupations - As introduced, removes certain limitations placed on a person trying to meet the educational requirement for licensure as a polysomnographic technologist by presenting proof of successful completion of an accredited sleep technologist educational program (A-STEP) that is accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. - Amends TCA Title 63. by \*Hurt.

**\*House Bill No. 335** -- Municipal Government - As introduced, authorizes the board of commissioners of a city chartered under the city manager-commission general law charter to call for a special election to fill a vacancy on the board. - Amends TCA Section 6-20-110. by \*Bulso.

**\*House Bill No. 336** -- Purchasing and Procurement - As introduced, increases the threshold, from \$10,000 to \$25,000, above which sealed bids are required by a city chartered under the city manager-commission general law charter; increases the threshold, from \$10,000 to \$25,000, below which the board of commissioners in such city may delegate the approval of contracts to the city manager. - Amends TCA Section 6-19-104. by \*Bulso.

**\*House Bill No. 337** -- Estates - As introduced, requires an affiant who seeks a small estate affidavit limited letter of authority to pay a bond equal to the value of the decedent's estate to the court clerk, with the estate named as the beneficiary, instead of to the state; makes various other changes to the Small Estate Affidavit Limited Letter of Authority Act. - Amends TCA Title 30, Chapter 4. by \*Stevens.

**\*House Bill No. 338** -- Estates - As introduced, allows a copy of a will, portions of a will, or letters of administration to be sent to beneficiaries and residuary distributees by electronic mail in addition to first class mail or personal delivery. - Amends TCA Title 20; Title 30; Title 32 and Title 35. by \*Stevens.

**\*House Bill No. 339** -- Marriage - As introduced, clarifies that former municipal judges may solemnize a marriage. - Amends TCA Title 36, Chapter 3, Part 3. by \*Raper.

**House Bill No. 340** -- Education - As introduced, deletes a provision of code that required the office of research and education accountability to, by November 1, 2018, study and file a report on the formation and operation of community schools. - Amends TCA Title 49. by \*Cepicky.

**\*House Bill No. 341** -- Taxes, Real Property - As introduced, extends, from 20 days to 30 days after the date the division of property assessments publishes notice of the availability of the proposed use value schedule in a newspaper, the deadline by which a petition must be filed

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by owners of agricultural, forest, or open space land to convene a hearing of the state board of equalization. - Amends TCA Title 67, Chapter 5, Part 10. by \*Reedy.

**\*House Bill No. 342** -- Taxes, Sales - As introduced, permanently exempts from sales and use tax, the retail sale of gun safes and gun safety devices; removes the temporary sales tax holiday. - Amends TCA Title 67, Chapter 6. by \*Sparks.

**\*House Bill No. 343** -- Taxes, Sales - As introduced, extends for an additional year, until June 30, 2024, the sales tax holiday for the retail sale of gun safes and gun safety devices. - Amends TCA Title 67, Chapter 6. by \*Sparks.

**\*House Bill No. 344** -- Local Education Agencies - As introduced, requires LEAs to classify school nurses as licensed personnel for salary purposes; requires an LEA to pay a school nurse the base salary established for licensed teachers for the respective school year if the school nurse holds a valid license to practice professional nursing as a registered nurse with zero years of experience; requires an LEA to pay a school nurse more or less than the established base salary per school year if the nurse has more or less training and experience than that required for the base salary. - Amends TCA Title 49 and Title 68. by \*Sparks.

**\*House Bill No. 345** -- Motor Vehicles, Titling and Registration - As introduced, permits registration plates to be renewed every 24 months instead of 12 months. - Amends TCA Title 5, Chapter 8, Part 1; Title 55, Chapter 4 and Title 55, Chapter 6. by \*Sparks.

**\*House Bill No. 346** -- County Officers - As introduced, eliminates the mandatory compensation increase for county officers; updates county officer minimum salaries to the 2022-2023 fiscal year amounts. - Amends TCA Title 8, Chapter 24. by \*Sparks.

**\*House Bill No. 347** -- Scholarships and Financial Aid - As introduced, authorizes the comptroller to submit, in electronic format, the report of the findings from each study, conducted every four years, of the effectiveness of the Tennessee Promise scholarship program to the speakers of the senate and house of representatives and the members of the education committee of the senate and the education administration committee of the house of representatives. - Amends TCA Title 49. by \*Sparks.

**\*House Bill No. 348** -- Scholarships and Financial Aid - As introduced, changes the date within which a student must be enrolled in a full-time eligible postsecondary program to be eligible for a Tennessee Promise scholarship from the fall term after the student's graduation of high school or similar achievement to no later than 16 months after the student's graduation of high school or similar achievement. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 4. by \*Lafferty.

**\*House Bill No. 349** -- Business and Commerce - As introduced, revises the types of entities that may serve as registered agents for certain corporations, companies, and partnerships; requires a registered agent to maintain a business office at the location of the agent's registered office. - Amends TCA Title 48 and Title 61. by \*Burkhart.

**\*House Bill No. 350** -- Law Enforcement - As introduced, requires a municipality or county to follow the statutory procedure for taking certain disciplinary actions against a police officer if the officer is under investigation for matters that are likely to lead to an indication of untrustworthiness that requires the disclosure of the officer's behavior to defense counsel in a

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criminal proceeding during which the officer's testimony is required. - Amends TCA Title 38. by \*Hardaway.

**\*House Bill No. 351** -- Industrial Development - As introduced, authorizes the establishment of industrial development corporations solely to assist and benefit minority-owned businesses, locally owned businesses, small businesses, and women-owned businesses. - Amends TCA Title 7, Chapter 53. by \*Hardaway.

**House Bill No. 352** -- Law Enforcement - As introduced, if the Tennessee highway patrol is assigned a protective detail, authorizes a Tennessee highway patrolman and an officer of a local law enforcement agency to utilize their respective agency's vehicle or emergency equipment for purposes of conducting the protective detail. - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 8 and Title 58. By \*Russell.

**\*House Bill No. 353** -- Motor Vehicles - As introduced, enacts the "Sergeant Chris Jenkins Law"; requires loose items being transported in open beds or trailers to be secured. - Amends TCA Title 39 and Title 55. by \*Russell.

**\*House Bill No. 354** -- Motor Vehicles - As introduced, increases from 15 to 16, the limitation of cars, which are at least four model years old, sold by a licensed motor vehicle dealer, licensed to sell used motor vehicles, in order for such dealer to not have to obtain an automobile auction license. - Amends TCA Title 55 and Title 62. by \*Hicks T.

**\*House Bill No. 355** -- Insurance, Health, Accident - As introduced, requires that a health benefit plan that provides coverage for a screening mammogram must provide coverage for diagnostic imaging and supplemental breast screening without imposing a cost-sharing requirement on the patient. - Amends TCA Title 56, Chapter 7. by \*Alexander.

**\*House Bill No. 356** -- Motor Vehicles, Titling and Registration - As introduced, allows county clerks to increase the fees for the service of handling mail orders of plates and decals in an amount not to exceed an applicable United States postal service price increase in a given year. - Amends TCA Section 55-4-105. by \*Keisling.

**\*House Bill No. 357** -- Health Care - As introduced, lessens from 30 to 15 days of any change, the time within which an enrollee in, and applicant for, TennCare uninsured or uninsurable coverage must notify the bureau of TennCare by mailing documentation of a material change affecting information given to the bureau or the bureau's designee on or with the person's application. - Amends TCA Title 68 and Title 71. by \*Keisling.

**HOUSE BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION**

On motion, bills listed below passed second consideration and were referred by the Speaker to Committee or held on the Clerk's desk as noted:

**\*House Bill No. 163** -- Adoption -- House Civil Justice Committee

**\*House Bill No. 164** -- Children's Services, Dept. of -- House Civil Justice Committee

**\*House Bill No. 165** -- Disabled Persons -- House Commerce Committee



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- \*House Bill No. 166** -- Military -- House State Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 167** -- Tattoos and Piercings -- House Commerce Committee
- \*House Bill No. 168** -- County Government -- House Local Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 169** -- Election Laws -- House Local Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 170** -- Zoning -- House Local Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 171** -- Safety -- House Commerce Committee
- \*House Bill No. 172** -- Health Care -- House Health Committee
- \*House Bill No. 173** -- Election Laws -- House Local Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 174** -- Pensions and Retirement Benefits -- House State Government Committee
- House Bill No. 175** -- Alcoholic Beverages -- House State Government Committee
- House Bill No. 176** -- Registers of Deeds -- House Local Government Committee
- House Bill No. 177** -- Education -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk
- \*House Bill No. 178** -- Alcoholic Beverages -- House State Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 179** -- Education, Dept. of -- House Education Administration Committee
- \*House Bill No. 180** -- Motor Vehicles -- House Transportation Committee
- \*House Bill No. 181** -- Local Government, General -- House Local Government Committee
- House Bill No. 182** -- Ethics -- House State Government Committee
- House Bill No. 183** -- Campaigns and Campaign Finance -- House Local Government Committee
- House Bill No. 184** -- Ethics -- House State Government Committee
- House Bill No. 185** -- Health Care -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk
- \*House Bill No. 186** -- Commerce and Insurance, Dept. of -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk
- \*House Bill No. 187** -- Civil Procedure -- House Civil Justice Committee

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**\*House Bill No. 188** -- Insurance Companies, Agents, Brokers, Policies -- Caption Bill  
Held on House Desk

**\*House Bill No. 190** -- Firearms and Ammunition – House Civil Justice Committee

**\*House Bill No. 191** -- Alcoholic Beverages -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk

**\*House Bill No. 192** -- Handgun Permits – House Civil Justice Committee

**\*House Bill No. 193** -- Election Laws -- House Local Government Committee

**House Bill No. 194** -- Safety -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk

**House Bill No. 195** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 196** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 197** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 198** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 199** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 200** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 201** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 202** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 203** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 204** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 205** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 206** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 207** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 208** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 209** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 210** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

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**House Bill No. 213** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 214** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 215** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 216** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 217** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 218** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 219** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 220** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 221** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 222** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 223** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 224** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 225** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 226** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 227** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 228** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 229** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 230** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 231** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 232** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 233** -- Sunset Laws -- House Government Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 234** -- Administrative Procedure (UAPA) -- House Government  
Operations Committee

**House Bill No. 235** -- Correction, Dept. of -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk

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**House Bill No. 236** -- Administrative Procedure (UAPA) -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk

**\*House Bill No. 237** -- Handgun Permits -- House Civil Justice Committee

**\*House Bill No. 239** -- Statutes and Codification -- House Civil Justice Committee

**\*House Bill No. 240** -- Victims' Rights -- House Criminal Justice Committee

**\*House Bill No. 241** -- Witnesses -- House Criminal Justice Committee

**\*House Bill No. 242** -- Anatomical Gifts -- House Health Committee

**\*House Bill No. 243** -- Taxes, Exemption and Credits -- House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

**\*House Bill No. 244** -- Taxes, Exemption and Credits -- House Local Government Committee

**\*House Bill No. 245** -- Motor Vehicles, Titling and Registration -- House Transportation Committee

**House Bill No. 246** -- Election Laws -- House Local Government Committee

**House Bill No. 247** -- Taxes, Business -- House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

**\*House Bill No. 248** -- Criminal Offenses -- House Criminal Justice Committee

**\*House Bill No. 249** -- Courts, General Sessions -- House Civil Justice Committee

**\*House Bill No. 250** -- Education -- House Education Administration Committee

**\*House Bill No. 251** -- Scholarships and Financial Aid -- House Education Administration Committee

**\*House Bill No. 252** -- Schools, Home -- House Education Administration Committee

**\*House Bill No. 253** -- Criminal Offenses -- House Criminal Justice Committee

**\*House Bill No. 254** -- Taxes, Real Property -- House Local Government Committee

**\*House Bill No. 255** -- Local Education Agencies -- House Education Administration Committee

**\*House Bill No. 256** -- Taxes, Exemption and Credits -- House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

**House Bill No. 257** -- Motor Vehicles, Titling and Registration -- House Transportation Committee

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- \*House Bill No. 258** -- Education -- House Education Administration Committee
- \*House Bill No. 259** -- Taxes, Sales -- House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee
- \*House Bill No. 260** -- Labor -- House Commerce Committee
- \*House Bill No. 261** -- Motor Vehicles, Titling and Registration -- House Transportation Committee
- \*House Bill No. 262** -- Political Parties -- House Local Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 264** -- Public Health -- House Health Committee
- \*House Bill No. 265** -- Game and Fish Laws -- House State Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 266** -- Drugs, Prescription -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk
- \*House Bill No. 267** -- Juvenile Offenders -- House Criminal Justice Committee
- \*House Bill No. 268** -- Victims' Rights -- House Criminal Justice Committee
- \*House Bill No. 269** -- Abortion -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk
- \*House Bill No. 270** -- Students -- House Education Instruction Committee
- \*House Bill No. 271** -- Health Care -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk
- \*House Bill No. 272** -- Health Care -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk
- \*House Bill No. 273** -- Health, Dept. of -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk
- \*House Bill No. 274** -- Election Laws -- House Local Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 275** -- Public Health -- House Health Committee
- \*House Bill No. 276** -- Scholarships and Financial Aid -- House Education Administration Committee
- \*House Bill No. 277** -- Sentencing -- House Criminal Justice Committee
- House Bill No. 278** -- Local Government, General -- House Local Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 279** -- Criminal Procedure -- House Criminal Justice Committee
- \*House Bill No. 280** -- Utilities, Utility Districts -- House Commerce Committee
- \*House Bill No. 281** -- Courts, Municipal -- House Criminal Justice Committee

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- \*House Bill No. 282** -- Pharmacy, Pharmacists -- House Health Committee
- \*House Bill No. 283** -- Health Care -- House Health Committee
- \*House Bill No. 284** -- Public Funds and Financing -- House Local Government Committee
- House Bill No. 285** -- Criminal Offenses -- House Criminal Justice Committee
- \*House Bill No. 286** -- Fireworks -- House Commerce Committee
- \*House Bill No. 287** -- Eminent Domain -- House Civil Justice Committee
- \*House Bill No. 288** -- Regional Authorities and Special Districts -- House Local Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 289** -- Capital Punishment -- House Criminal Justice Committee
- \*House Bill No. 290** -- Criminal Procedure -- House Criminal Justice Committee
- \*House Bill No. 291** -- Advertising -- House Transportation Committee
- \*House Bill No. 292** -- Health Care -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk
- \*House Bill No. 293** -- Wine & Wineries -- House State Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 294** -- Education, Higher -- House Education Administration Committee
- \*House Bill No. 295** -- Taxes, Business -- House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee
- \*House Bill No. 296** -- Codes -- House Commerce Committee
- \*House Bill No. 297** -- Game and Fish Laws -- House State Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 298** -- Health Care -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk
- \*House Bill No. 299** -- Food and Food Products -- House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
- \*House Bill No. 300** -- County Government -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk
- House Bill No. 301** -- Anatomical Gifts -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk
- \*House Bill No. 302** -- Lobbying, Lobbyists -- House State Government Committee
- \*House Bill No. 303** -- Election Laws -- House Local Government Committee
- House Bill No. 304** -- Alcoholic Beverages -- Caption Bill Held on House Desk

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**\*House Bill No. 305** -- Mental Illness -- House Health Committee

**\*House Bill No. 306** -- Schools, Private -- House Education Administration Committee

**\*House Bill No. 307** -- Board of Regents -- House Education Administration Committee

**\*House Bill No. 308** -- Children -- House Civil Justice Committee

**\*House Bill No. 309** -- Controlled Substances -- House Criminal Justice Committee

**House Bill No. 310** -- Expunction -- House Criminal Justice Committee

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**House Resolution No. 2** -- Memorials, Recognition - Herbert Malone. by \*Sexton, \*Carr.

**House Resolution No. 3** -- Memorials, Recognition - Charles Geesling. by \*Butler.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 40** -- Memorials, Recognition - Arnold's Country Kitchen. by \*Freeman, \*Reedy, \*Clemmons, \*Jones, \*Love, \*Whitson, \*Beck, \*Mitchell, \*Hemmer, \*Powell, \*Dixie, \*Jernigan.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 41** -- Memorials, Death - Evelyn Joyce Potts Carter. by \*Cepicky, \*Capley.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 43** -- Memorials, Sports - Abby Cheeseman, The Webb School, TSSAA Division II, Class A Girls' Individual State Cross Country Champion. by \*Marsh.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 44** -- Memorials, Recognition - Shelby Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 125th anniversary. by \*Marsh, \*Reedy.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 46** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement - William Owen, Eagle Scout. by \*Hazlewood.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 47** -- Memorials, Sports - Clay County High School Bulldogs football team. by \*Keisling.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 48** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement - Royce and Dale Stinson, 50th wedding anniversary. by \*Keisling.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 49** -- Memorials, Sports - Gabby Beaty, 1,000 career points. by \*Keisling.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 51** -- Memorials, Recognition - Union University, bicentennial celebration. by \*Lamberth.

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**\*House Joint Resolution No. 52** -- Memorials, Sports - Merrol Hyde Magnet School girls' soccer team, TSSAA Division I, Class A state champions. by \*Garrett, \*Lamberth, \*Slater.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 53** -- Memorials, Recognition - East Ridge Middle School, 50th anniversary. by \*Faison.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 54** -- Memorials, Death - Dave William Smith, Jr. by \*Clemmons, \*Boyd.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 57** -- Memorials, Recognition - Colonel Thomas L. Hickerson, Air Force Cybersecurity Operations and Support Hall of Fame. by \*Stevens, \*Terry, \*Rudd, \*Sparks, \*Warner, \*Baum, \*Reedy.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 60** -- Memorials, Sports - Fisk University gymnastics team. by \*Jones, \*Love, \*McKenzie, \*Miller, \*Reedy, \*Clemmons, \*Towns, \*Johnson G, \*Powell, \*Chism, \*Harris, \*Thompson, \*Parkinson, \*Shaw.

**OBJECTION--CONSENT CALENDAR**

Objection was filed to the following on the Consent Calendar:

**House Joint Resolution No. 51:** by Rep. Lamberth

Under the rules, House Joint Resolution No. 51, was placed at the heel of the calendar for January 30, 2023.

**CLERK'S NOTE  
JOURNAL CORRECTION**

The Clerk announced that House Joint Resolution No. 54 was filed with Reps. Clemmons and Parkinson as co-sponsors, the correct co-sponsors were Reps. Clemmons and Boyd. Also, House Joint Resolution No. 60 was filed with Reps. Jones and Miller as co-sponsors, the correct co-sponsors were Reps. Jones and McKenzie. These corrections were reflected in the electronic system.

**CONSENT CALENDAR, CONTINUED**

Pursuant to **Rule No. 50**, Rep. Zachary moved that all House Bills having companion Senate Bills and are on the Clerk's desk be conformed and substituted for the appropriate House Bill, all Senate Joint Resolutions confirming appointments on the Clerk's desk be substituted for House Joint Resolutions confirming the same appointments, all Senate and House Bills on the Consent Calendar be passed on third and final consideration, all House Resolutions and House Joint Resolutions be adopted, and all Senate Joint Resolutions on the Consent Calendar be concurred in, which motion prevailed by the following vote:



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Ayes ..... 92  
Noes ..... 0

Representatives voting aye were: Alexander, Baum, Beck, Boyd, Bricken, Bulso, Burkhart, Butler, Campbell S, Camper, Capley, Carr, Carringer, Cepicky, Chism, Clemmons, Cochran, Crawford, Darby, Davis, Dixie, Doggett, Eldridge, Faison, Farmer, Freeman, Fritts, Gant, Garrett, Gillespie, Glynn, Grills, Hakeem, Hale, Hardaway, Harris, Haston, Hawk, Hazlewood, Helton-Haynes, Hemmer, Hicks G, Hicks T, Holsclaw, Howell, Hulsey, Hurt, Jernigan, Johnson C, Johnson G, Jones, Keisling, Lafferty, Lamberth, Littleton, Love, Lynn, Marsh, Martin B, Martin G, McCalmon, McKenzie, Miller, Mitchell, Moon, Parkinson, Powell, Powers, Raper, Reedy, Richey, Rudd, Rudder, Russell, Shaw, Sherrell, Slater, Sparks, Stevens, Terry, Thompson, Todd, Towns, Vaughan, Vital, Warner, White, Whitson, Williams, Wright, Zachary, Mr. Speaker Sexton--92

A motion to reconsider was tabled.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**BILLS WITHDRAWN**

On motion of Rep. Russell, **House Bill No. 352** was withdrawn from the House.

**RULES SUSPENDED**

Rep. Todd moved that the rules be suspended for the purpose of introducing House Joint Resolution No. 61 out of order, which motion prevailed.

**\*House Joint Resolution No. 61** -- Memorials, Recognition - Union University, 200th anniversary. by \*Todd, \*Lamberth, \*Slater.

On motion, the rules were suspended for the immediate consideration of the resolution.

On motion of Rep. Todd, the resolution was adopted.

A motion to reconsider was tabled.

**BILLS WITHDRAWN**

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On motion of Rep. Lamberth, **House Joint Resolution No. 51** was withdrawn from the House.

On motion of Rep. Lamberth, **House Bill No. 245** was recalled from the Transportation Committee and withdrawn from the House.

**SPONSORS ADDED**

Under **Rule No. 43**, the following members were permitted to add their names as sponsors as indicated below, the prime sponsor of each having agreed to such addition:

**House Bill No. 28** Rep. Burkhart as prime sponsor.

**House Bill No. 40** Reps. Hulse and Warner as prime sponsors.

**ENROLLED BILLS  
January 21, 2023**

MR. SPEAKER: Your Chief Engrossing Clerk begs leave to report that we have carefully compared House Joint Resolutions Nos. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37 and 39; and find same correctly enrolled and ready for the signatures of the Speakers.

GREG GLASS, Chief Engrossing Clerk

**SIGNED  
January 21, 2023**

The Speaker announced that he had signed the following: House Joint Resolutions Nos. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37 and 39.

GREG GLASS, Chief Engrossing Clerk

**ENGROSSED BILLS  
January 21, 2023**

MR. SPEAKER: The following bills have been examined, engrossed and are ready for transmission to the Senate: House Joint Resolutions Nos. 40, 41, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54, 57, 60 and 61;

GREG GLASS, Chief Engrossing Clerk

**ENROLLED BILLS  
January 21, 2023**

MR. SPEAKER: Your Chief Engrossing Clerk begs leave to report that we have carefully compared House Resolutions Nos. 2 and 3; and find same correctly enrolled and ready for the signature of the Speaker.

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GREG GLASS, Chief Engrossing Clerk

**SIGNED  
January 21, 2023**

The Speaker announced that he had signed the following: House Resolutions Nos. 2 and 3.

GREG GLASS, Chief Engrossing Clerk

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken with the following results:

Present..... 92

Representatives present were Alexander, Baum, Beck, Boyd, Bricken, Bulso, Burkhart, Butler, Campbell S, Camper, Capley, Carr, Carringer, Cepicky, Chism, Clemmons, Cochran, Crawford, Darby, Davis, Dixie, Doggett, Eldridge, Faison, Farmer, Freeman, Fritts, Gant, Garrett, Gillespie, Glynn, Grills, Hakeem, Hale, Hardaway, Harris, Haston, Hawk, Hazlewood, Helton-Haynes, Hemmer, Hicks G, Hicks T, Holsclaw, Howell, Hulsey, Hurt, Jernigan, Johnson C, Johnson G, Jones, Keisling, Lafferty, Lamberth, Littleton, Love, Lynn, Marsh, Martin B, Martin G, McCalmon, McKenzie, Miller, Mitchell, Moon, Parkinson, Powell, Powers, Raper, Reedy, Richey, Rudd, Rudder, Russell, Shaw, Sherrell, Slater, Sparks, Stevens, Terry, Thompson, Todd, Towns, Vaughan, Vital, Warner, White, Whitson, Williams, Wright, Zachary, Mr. Speaker Sexton -- 92

**RECESS MOTION**

Representative Lamberth moved, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 25 and in order to satisfy the requirements of the Tennessee State Constitution, the House stand in a brief recess in order to meet with the Senate for the purpose of inaugurating the Governor in joint convention, at the conclusion of which, the House adjourn the Organizational Session of the House of Representatives of the 113th General Assembly sine die and that the House convene in Regular Session in the House Chamber immediately following the conclusion of the joint convention, which motion prevailed.

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**IN JOINT CONVENTION  
INAUGURATION OF GOVERNOR LEE  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023**

The hour having arrived, set by House Joint Resolution No. 25, the Senate met with the House in Joint Convention for the purpose of inaugurating the Honorable Bill Lee as Governor.

The Joint Convention was called to order by Mr. Speaker McNally, President of the Joint Convention.

On motion of Senator Johnson, the roll call of the Senate was dispensed with.

On motion of Representative Lamberth, the roll call of the House was dispensed with.

Thereupon, the Clerk of the Senate read House Joint Resolution No. 25, authorizing the Joint Convention.

Mr. President McNally appointed a Select Committee composed of Senators Gardenhire, Haile, Kyle, Massey, Powers and Reeves; Representatives C. Johnson, Marsh, Williams, Davis, Shaw and McKenzie as the Committee to escort the Honorable Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee and First Lady Maria Lee to the platform. Senator Haile served as Chair of this Committee.

Senator Haile announced, "Mr. President and members of the Joint Convention, it is my honor to present to you, the Honorable Bill Lee, the Governor of the state of Tennessee and First Lady Maria Lee."

Mr. President McNally relinquished the gavel to Mr. Speaker Sexton as President of the Joint Convention.

The Tennessee National Guard gave the Presentation of Colors.

John DeBerry gave the invocation.

Franklin Leyva, new American citizen, lead the Joint Convention in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The National Anthem was sung by Trooper Dakota Jordan.

Mr. President Sexton relinquished the gavel to Mr. Lt. Governor McNally as President of the Joint Convention.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

The Honorable Chief Justice Roger Page, of the Tennessee Supreme Court, administered the Oath of Office to Governor Bill Lee, as prescribed by law.

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Thereupon, Mr. President McNally declared that the Honorable Bill Lee was duly, legally and constitutionally inaugurated the Governor of the State of Tennessee for the ensuing four years.

The Tennessee National Guard gave the Governor's Salute to Governor Lee.

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS**

*Thank you to every person here – not only for being here but for who you are and what you do to make this the greatest state in the greatest country in the world.*

*Lt. Governor McNally, Speaker Sexton, members of the General Assembly, constitutional officers, Justices of the Supreme Court, members of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation, Governor Dunn, Governor Alexander, Governor Bredesen, Governor Haslam, members of our cabinet, of our staff...*

*My family, of whom there are a lot of down there in this corner.*

*My friends and fellow Tennesseans.*

*Again, thank you, not only for being here, but how you do contribute to this great state and this great country.*

*You know, Tennessee reminds people in America, reminds people in this country, that America hasn't lost her way.*

*And that idea is reflected by every person here today, it's why our state motto – America at its Best – which was created many years ago, is so appropriate, especially today.*

*Tennessee is leading the nation, and it's good that we should recognize that and celebrate it.*

*But before I go on, there is one more person that I want to acknowledge – someone who embodies the Volunteer Spirit of the people of our state with courage, and strength and service.*

*These last few months have been difficult for our family, but God is faithful. Maria and I have cherished your prayers for healing.*

*And we are grateful for everyone who has supported us, and I'm grateful she is here with me today– my wife and our First Lady, Maria Lee.*

*While Maria and I have been in a difficult time, we know that we are not alone in hardship.*

*In fact, the last four years have brought unexpected challenges to people all across this state – floods, wildfires, a pandemic, tornadoes, even a bombing on Christmas morning – and that, addition to the personal challenges that you may be facing that your fellow Tennesseans don't even know about, going on in your own life.*

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*You know, it doesn't take away the tragedy, or the difficulty or the fear, but in times of struggle, we can find great hope.*

*We saw that when Tennesseans converged on the Cumberland Plateau to help their neighbors after those devastating tornadoes.*

*And we saw that when six brave police officers put their very lives on the line right down the street to protect their fellow man from that bomb on Christmas morning.*

*And we saw that in Waverly. I was there the day after the floods, and wept with, and prayed with and embraced people who had lost everything, even their loved ones.*

*Maria was there a few days later to help clean up homes that had been reduced to rubble.*

*And for Waverly, that is clearly part of the story is tragedy, and difficulty, and fear.*

*But I was also there one year later, as the community gathered in remembrance of all those that were lost. Once again, we wept, and we prayed and and we embraced, but this time, something was different. We also recognized the remarkable transformation that had occurred in that community over the past year.*

*It was a stark picture of redemption and hope. Quite frankly, it was a picture of Tennessee since her founding.*

*It's a reminder, that once again, there are only a few things that really matter, and Maria and I want our lives to be about those things.*

*That's why I ran for Governor, twice now, and that thought has been with me every day these last four years.*

*The halfway point in two terms of office has actually made me think even more about the things that really matter.*

*You know, there's a parable in the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew about a man who is preparing to go on a journey.*

*Before he leaves, he gives a part of his estate to each of his three servants for them to manage, with the expectation that they would be good stewards.*

*When he returns from his journey, two of the three servants have doubled what they were given.*

*The man told them, "Well done. Because you've been faithful over a few things, I'll put you in charge of many things."*

*That teaching has been very important to me over the years— to whom much is given, much is expected.*

*And we know that Jesus wasn't merely talking about material things or money, but about life.*

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*And we, all of us, have been given a responsibility – an obligation to use our lives in a way that multiplies in the lives of others – to spend our days considering how the work of our life will reap benefits, not for ourselves, but for others. And each of us has been given much by way of that responsibility.*

*Every member of the Tennessee General Assembly, along with myself, have been given much to steward, and we have worked hard the last four years to steward those resources in a way to multiply.*

*And we should stop at this halfway point and reflect on a few of the things that we've accomplished.*

*We overhauled the way we fund public schools for the first time in 30 years, which means, that instead of an old and broken system, a million Tennessee children are now funded based on their own individual needs.*

*Our innovative Medicaid waiver – which is the only one of its kind in the nation – means more Tennesseans now have access to dental care and maternal care, and Tennesseans with disabilities can live with the dignity they deserve.*

*With this waiver, we found a better way to serve the unseen, and – there aren't many who can say this – we've worked with both the Trump administration and the Biden administration to get it done.*

*Thanks to some of the largest economic development projects that have been announced in America, tens of thousands of Tennesseans already have the opportunity to provide a better living for their families.*

*And largest of them – Ford Motor Company – is happening in rural Tennessee, on a site that's been longing for prosperity for 20 years.*

*And although Rural Tennessee, actually although Rural America has been in decline for decades, Rural Tennessee is proving to be the exception, thanks to historic investments in vocational, technical and agricultural education shaping Tennessee's future workforce.*

*Tennessee has become proof that the state with the workers will win every time.*

*These examples of bipartisan stewardship are but a few in a long list of ways that we, together with the General Assembly, have worked to multiply in the lives of the people we serve.*

*All the while, our state's finances have been stewarded in such a way that affords us the lowest tax rate per capita in the nation, the lowest debt rate per capita in the nation, and the fastest growing economy of all 50 states.*

*And let me just say, when it comes to responsible fiscal stewardship, Tennessee has a history of governors – and there are four of them sitting on this stage today – who have built a foundation and a legacy of fiscal policy that makes it possible for us to lead the nation.*

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*And we are reaping the benefits today, and I want to say thank you, on behalf of the people of Tennessee, to each one of you for operating in a responsible fiscal way that has created a balance sheet that is the envy of America.*

*We have set an example for America of how to serve.*

*The halfway point of any endeavor is a good time to reflect, but it's an even better time to plan – and to focus on the work still ahead.*

*We need a transportation strategy and an energy strategy designed for one of the fastest growing states in America.*

*We need to enhance efforts to preserve our natural resources and preserve the environment of what I believe is the most beautiful place in the world.*

*We need to protect children in our custody and across this state with a better foster care and better adoption process.*

*These are just examples of the things that we need to do, and there are many more, but at the same time we can never abandon that standard of fiscal responsibility that has allowed us to have the successes that we have so far.*

*We have been given much, and I believe that we have, together, responded to these gifts in a way to multiply in the lives of others. But much is expected.*

*In the parable that I referenced earlier, there was a third servant. He was afraid of losing what had been given to him, so rather than take a chance, he buried it in the ground until the man came back from his journey. Because of his fear of failure, he multiplied for no one.*

*May that never be me – or you.*

*In our efforts to use our lives in the best way we know how – to make life better for other people – there will be those who criticize.*

*There will be decisions that come at great personal cost.*

*There will be mistakes that we make.*

*There will be times when we fear failure.*

*But as you endeavor to serve other people – from whatever position or place you hold in life – remember the often quoted words of Theodore Roosevelt, and I'll paraphrase:*

*It is not the critic who counts, nor the man who points out how another man stumbles, or when the doer of deeds could have done it better.*



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*The credit belongs to those who actually strive to do the deeds, who know Great Enthusiasm and Great Devotion, those who spend themselves in a worthy cause...*

*Who, at the best, know in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if they fail, at least failed while daring greatly, so that their place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory, nor defeat.*

*Yeah, we will have critics – critics who thrive on toxic incivility and divisiveness.*

*But we don't have to step into their arena. There is a better way.*

*We can disagree and stand firm for our beliefs and our principles, but we should never forget the dignity of the other human being. We should never believe differences are a platform for demonization, or that one man has any greater value than another.*

*Civility is not a weakness. In fact, it has been and it should always be the American Way. And I know that it can be the way in Tennessee.*

*You and I, and this state, have been entrusted with treasures, not meant to be buried but to be spent on our fellow man.*

*We should recognize our treasures, celebrate our accomplishments, and be challenged by what lies ahead.*

*May we, together, each of us, each one of us, consider the other and how we may use our lives to multiply in theirs.*

*That's what Tennesseans do and have been doing for generations. That's why we are America at its Best. And that is why Tennessee is Leading the Nation.*

*It is the highest honor that I have to serve the people of Tennessee as Governor, and I thank them for the opportunity that they have given me to do so.*

*May the Lord continue to pour his great favor on, and richly bless the people of the great State of Tennessee.*

*Thank you.*

Mr. President McNally relinquished the gavel to Mr. Speaker Sexton as President of the Joint Convention.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Mr. President Sexton asked the members of Governor Lee Cabinet to rise in order to receive their Oaths of Office.

Governor Lee administered the Oaths of Office his Cabinet.

Dr. Don Finto, founder and president of Caleb Company, delivered the Benediction.

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The purpose for which the Joint Convention was assembled having been accomplished, Mr. President Sexton declared the Joint Convention dissolved.